

rededicate themselves during this week to the total banishment of drug abuse from American life.

I again urge every American to commit himself wholeheartedly, beginning now, to this supremely important humanitarian cause.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this eighteenth day of October, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred ninety-ninth.

GERALD R. FORD

Proclamation 4329

October 21, 1974

### Immunization Action Week, 1974

*By the President of the United States of America*

#### A Proclamation

This Nation has always been committed to fostering the health of its people, and particularly of its children. Immunization against disease has been an exciting chapter in that effort. The United States can take pride in the dedicated research which has produced safe and effective vaccines against polio, measles, rubella, and other childhood diseases.

Cooperation by the medical profession and public health organizations in distributing these vaccines to children has achieved dramatic reductions in diseases which can kill, cripple, or cause birth defects, including mental retardation. Because of their tragic consequences, we dare not let down our guard against a resurgence of these diseases.

The President's Committee on Mental Retardation has brought to my attention an alarming decline of immunity levels among pre-school children. Last year more than 40 percent of these children were unprotected against either polio, measles, rubella, diphtheria, pertussis, or tetanus. On polio, for example, the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare Center for Disease Control reports that immunization levels dropped from 79 percent in 1963 to 60 percent in 1973.

Our children are America's future. Let us make that future a healthy one, for their sake and the Nation's sake.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GERALD R. FORD, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the week beginning October 20, 1974, as "Immunization Action Week," and call upon all parents, educators, and medical personnel to exert renewed efforts during this week and throughout the year to immunize every American child against diseases for which vaccines are available.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-first day of October, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred ninety-ninth.

GERALD R. FORD

Proclamation 4330

October 28, 1974

**American Education Week, 1974**

*By the President of the United States of America*

**A Proclamation**

The greatness of a nation of free institutions is measured by the degree of enlightenment of its citizens.

By that measure, ours is a great Nation. Our States provide schools for all Americans. And those schools—public, private and church-affiliated—are the vital centers of neighborhood and community life throughout the Nation.

It is most appropriate that the theme of this year's American Education Week is "Stay Involved," for there is no end to the educational process. "Staying involved" means that each of us is sufficiently concerned about the training and development of our young people to make the contribution to that educational process that our special training, experience, and perspective allow us to make.

I know that all Americans will resolve to stay involved in the educational process, for the knowledge we impart to our children today will determine the future of our people.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GERALD R. FORD, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate the week of October 27 through November 2, 1974, as American Education Week.